

Ray House  
CT-104  
780 Ponds Wood Road  
Huntingtown, Calvert County  
Rosemary Faya Prola  
July 27, 2007

## ADDENDUM

### Section 2. Location

The property address is 4610 Rolling Hill Road.

### Section 7. Description

Photos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

### Section 8. Significance

The Ray House was originally identified and documented because of its architectural significance; however, the property is also significant for its association with the transition from tenant farming to land ownership by African Americans along Ponds Wood Road between 1889 and 1958. Prior to this period, very few African Americans owned land in the Huntingtown area. Census data report only one local African-American owner in 1860, Rachel Quill, and no African-American landowners in 1870.<sup>1</sup> The purchase of land by African Americans during this period thus opened a new chapter in the social history of Calvert County.

In 1903, African-American Thomas W. Ray purchased 334 acres flanking both sides of Ponds Wood Road from the Barber family. The land included the nineteenth-century house and tobacco barn described in a 2003 inventory form and which stand on the land today. According to family lore, Ray was raised on the property and returned to purchase the land after tenancing in Anne Arundel County. He was one of three African Americans to purchase sizeable acreage on Ponds Wood Road early in the twentieth century. Also buying land were Joseph J. Jones Sr. (250 acres, 1905) and James T. Parran and Christianna Ray Parran (200 acres, 1903). Thomas W. Ray appears to have been related to the other two purchasers. According to family tradition, Ray and Christianna Ray Parran were children of R. Wesley Ray. Thomas W. Ray's mother was Molly Jones, who may have been Margaret Jones, sister of Joseph John Jones Sr. Census data support both stories.

Because of their connection with the transition from tenancy to landownership among African Americans in the period 1889 to 1958, the house, tobacco barn, and 1910 shed (identified by a Ray grandson as a corn house) documented as CT-104 are contributing resources in CT-1314, the Ponds Wood Road Community.

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<sup>1</sup>1860 census population schedule: Series M653, Roll 470, 94. 1870 census population schedule: Series M593, Roll 581, 106-110.



CT-104

RAY HOUSE

HUNTINGTOWN, MARYLAND

FRED FAYA

19 APRIL 2007

HOUSE, EAST ELEVATION

1 OF 6



CT-104

RAY HOUSE

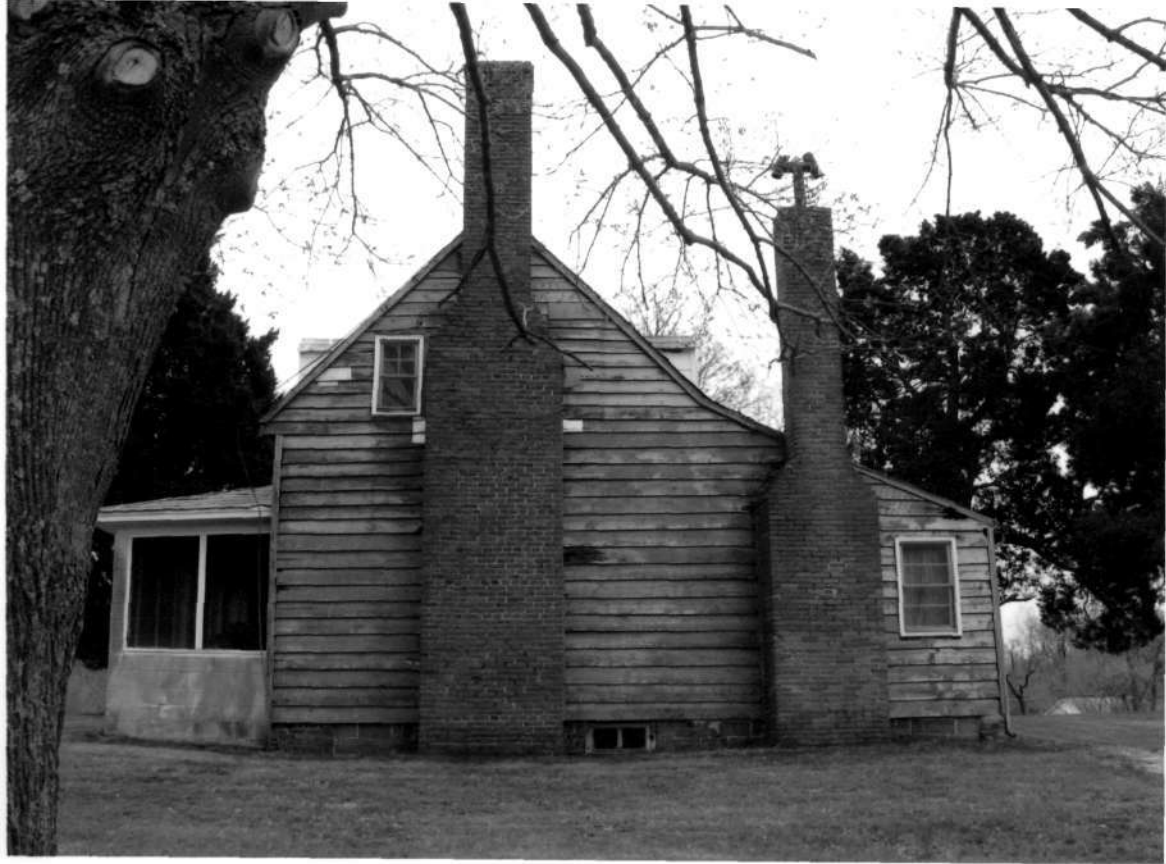
HUNTINGTOWN, MARYLAND

FRED FAYA

19 APRIL 2007

HOUSE, WEST ELEVATION

2 OF 6



CT-104

RAY HOUSE

HUNTINGTOWN, CALVERT CO.

FRED FAYA

19 APRIL 2007

HOUSE, NORTH EL

3 OF 6





CT-104

RAY HOUSE

HUNTINGTOWN, CALVERT CO

FRED FAYA

19 APRIL 2007

HOUSE, SOUTH EL

40F6



CT-104  
HUNTINGTOWN, CALVERT CO  
FRED FAYA  
19 APRIL 2007  
CORN HOUSE, EAST EL  
5 OF 6



CT-104

RAY HOUSE

HUNTINGTOWN, CALVERT CO

FRED FAYA

19 APRIL 2007

CORN HOUSE, WEST EL.

6 OF 6

**CAPSULE SUMMARY****CT-104****Ray House****780 Ponds Wood Road****Huntingtown, Calvert County****c1850****Private**

Built circa 1830, the historic house at 780 Ponds Wood Road is an intact example of an early-19th-century modest rural residence in Calvert County. The one-and-a-half-story side-hall form with a side-gable roof was common in Calvert County from the early 18th century to the mid-19th century initially as a building form executed by wealthy individuals and later more common among the less affluent class of farmer. Despite cosmetic changes to the exterior the building is in excellent condition and is one of the few freestanding extant examples of the building type in the county. Other examples have been incorporated into enlarged structures, as in the case of the original dwellings at Little Farm (CT-197) in Sunderland and the house at 3950 Faith Lane (CT-253) in Huntingtown.

The one-and-a-half-story dwelling is constructed of wood frame on a solid masonry foundation that has been parged. It is three bays wide with a cat-slide roof on the rear elevation that houses the shed addition. The dwelling is clad in replacement weatherboard siding with narrow cornerboards. The steeply pitched side-gabled roof is sheathed in pressed metal sheets that mimic fishscale shingles. Two front-gabled dormers clad in weatherboard pierce the slopes of the roof. A large brick exterior-end shouldered chimney with a corbeled cap is located on the north elevation of the building. Windows on the front elevation are 9/1 wood-sash. The front entry, located in the south bay, features a door with six raised panels and a four-light transom. There is a one-story half-hip-roof smooth-faced concrete-block masonry porch that extends the full width of the façade. The porch is enclosed with screens and has a single-leaf entry door and a projecting boxed cornice. The rear (west) elevation of the structure is dominated by the shed addition with a shouldered exterior-end brick chimney on the north elevation. Two front-gable dormers are present on the rear elevation. Also present on the site is a late-19<sup>th</sup>-century tobacco barn, a circa 1900 shed, a circa 1940 privy and a well.



## 7. Description

Inventory No. CT-104

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

**SETTING** The historic dwelling is located on a high grassy knoll on the north side of Ponds Wood Road, east of North Solomons Island Road (Route 2) and the rural community of Huntingtown. The house is situated facing east in a clearing with mature trees and shrubs scattered around the lot. North of the house is a wooded area. To the west, south and east of the house is mid- to late-20th-century residential development. The house is devoid of any foundation plantings. It is approached by an asphalt drive that runs below the knoll on the east side of the house. The original drive, overgrown and no longer used, runs up the knoll between the east elevation of the house and west elevation of the shed. The property contains the single-family dwelling, historic privy, shed, well, and tobacco barn.

**PRIMARY RESOURCE EXTERIOR** The one-and-a-half-story dwelling is constructed of wood frame on a solid masonry foundation that has been parged. Dating from circa 1830, the structure is three bays wide with a cat-slide roof on the rear elevation that houses the shed addition. The dwelling is clad in replacement weatherboard siding with narrow cornerboards. The steeply pitched side-gabled roof is clad in pressed metal sheets that mimic fishscale shingles. The slightly overhanging eaves of the roof are trimmed with a boxed cornice. Two front-gabled dormers clad in weatherboard pierce the slopes of the roof. A large brick exterior-end chimney is located on the north elevation of the building. The chimney is laid in five-course American bond, is shouldered and has a corbeled cap. Windows on the front elevation are 9/1 wood-sash. The bottom sashes are replacements. The front entry, located in the south bay, features a door with six raised panels and a four-light transom. There is a one-story half-hip-roof smooth-faced concrete-block masonry porch that extends the full width of the façade. The porch is enclosed with screens and has a single-leaf entry door and a projecting boxed cornice. The rear (west) elevation of the structure is dominated by the shed addition. It has a brick chimney laid in five-course American bond on the north elevation and single-leaf entry on the west elevation. Two front-gable dormers are present on the rear elevation. Windows in the dormers and shed addition are primarily 2/2 horizontal-pane wood-sash.

Although not included in the survey, it was noted that the interior of the dwelling has a side-hall, single-parlor plan with plaster walls and baseboards. The mantel in the northeast chamber has pilasters and a molded entablature.

**SECONDARY RESOURCES** The historic privy, dating from circa 1940, stands one story in height and is constructed of wood frame clad in asbestos shingles. It sits on a solid brick foundation and has a shed roof covered in asphalt sheets. It is located to the northwest of the house.

The historic well, also northwest of the house, dates from circa 1940. It consists of a concrete pad with a metal spicket.

The historic wood-frame shed is located to the east of the house and the original gravel drive and may have originally been used as a meathouse. The circa 1910 shed has a brick pier foundation, is clad in asphalt sheets over flush vertical board siding, and has a front gable roof covered with corrugated metal. Hinged doors access the interior of the shed.

The historic tobacco barn is set to the southeast of the house at the northwest corner of the asphalt drive and Ponds Wood Road. Dating to the late 19th century, the deteriorated wood-frame barn is covered with flush vertical boards. The side gable roof is covered with v-crimped metal sheets. Double-leaf entry doors are located on the north elevation. A single-leaf entry is located on the side elevation.



## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-104

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates c1830

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates c1830

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Built circa 1830, the historic house at 780 Ponds Wood Road is an intact example of an early-19th-century modest rural residence in Calvert County. The one-and-a-half-story side-hall form with a side-gable roof was common in Calvert County from the early 18th century to the mid-19th century initially as a building form executed by wealthy individuals and later more common among the less affluent class of farmer. Despite cosmetic changes to the exterior, the building is in excellent condition and is one of the few freestanding extant examples of the building type in the county. Other examples have been incorporated into enlarged structures, as in the case of the original dwellings at Little Farm (CT-197) in Sunderland and the house at 3950 Faith Lane (CT-253) in Huntingtown. The presence of a late-19th-century tobacco barn on the site suggests that the dwelling may have been the primary residence for a tobacco farm during this period. An earlier survey conducted of the site included a much older tobacco barn which may have been contemporary with the dwelling. (1) This older barn does not appear to be extant on the site.

### ENDNOTES

(1) The barn surveyed in this survey does bear some formal similarities to the barn previously surveyed on the site. However, differences between the two including the placement of doors, siding, and shed suggest that they are not the same barn. "Ray House," CT-104. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey (partial). Historic Property Files. Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning, Prince Frederick, MD.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-104

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.75 Acres

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name North Beach

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic house is located at 780 Ponds Wood Road in Huntingtown, Calvert County, Maryland. The house has been associated with Tax Map 15, Parcel 205 since its construction in the mid-19th century. The current deed to the property can be found in the land records of Calvert County in the Calvert County Courthouse in Prince Frederick: Deed Book ABE 225, Page 47.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carrie E. Albee and Laura V. Trieschmann, Architectural Historians

organization EHT Traceries, Inc.

date 2/27/03

street and number 1121 5th Street, NW

telephone 202-393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-104

Name Ray House

Continuation Sheet

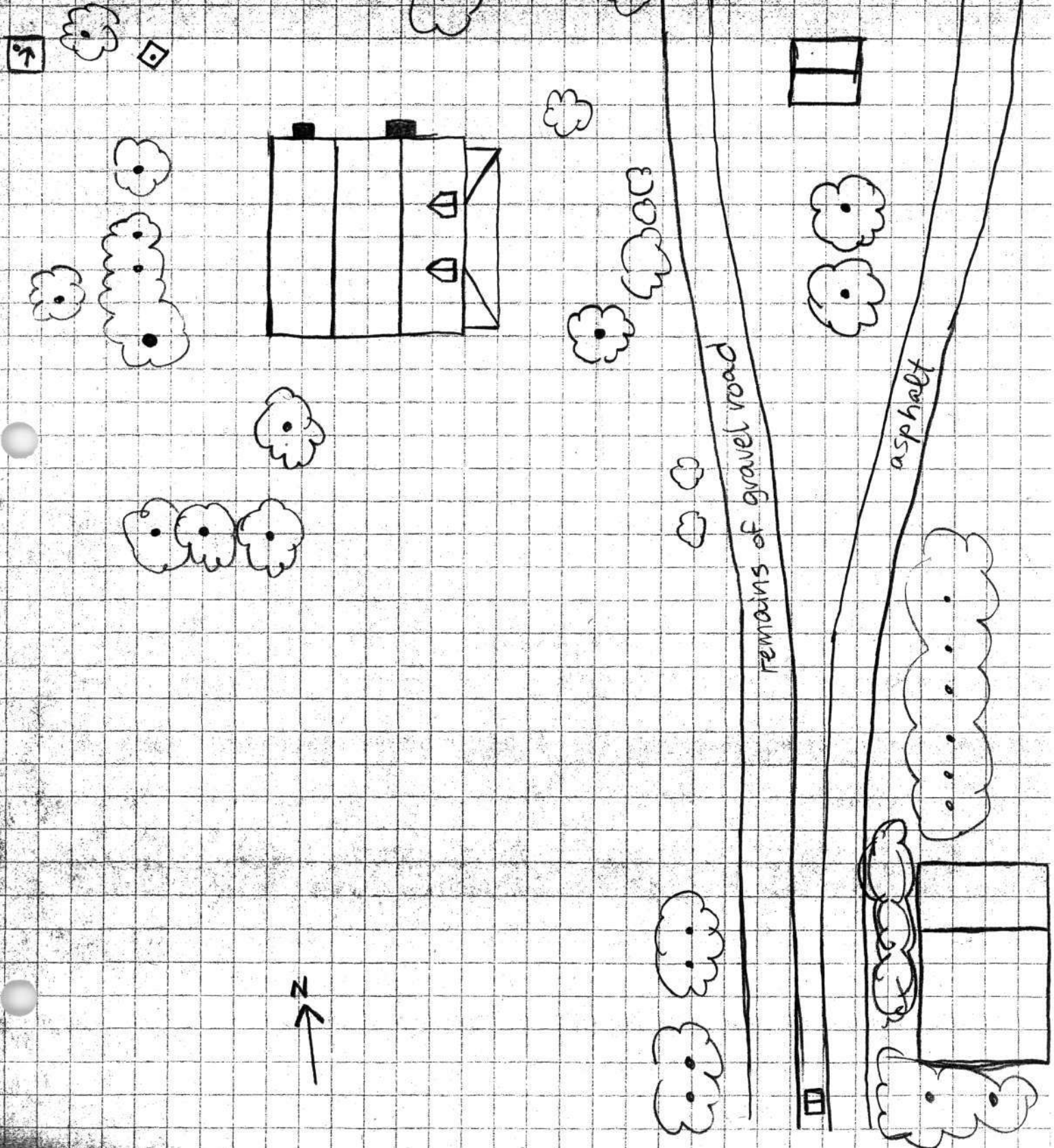
Number 9 Page 1

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"Ray House," CT-104. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey (partial). Historic Property Files. Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning, Prince Frederick, MD.

# RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

CT-104  
780 PONDS WOOD ROAD  
HUNTINGTOWN  
CALVERT COUNTY



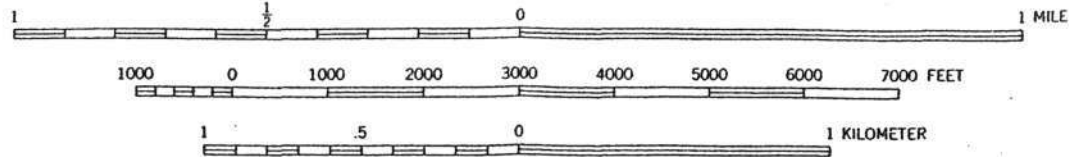


# NORTH BEACH, MD.

N3837.5—W7630/7.5

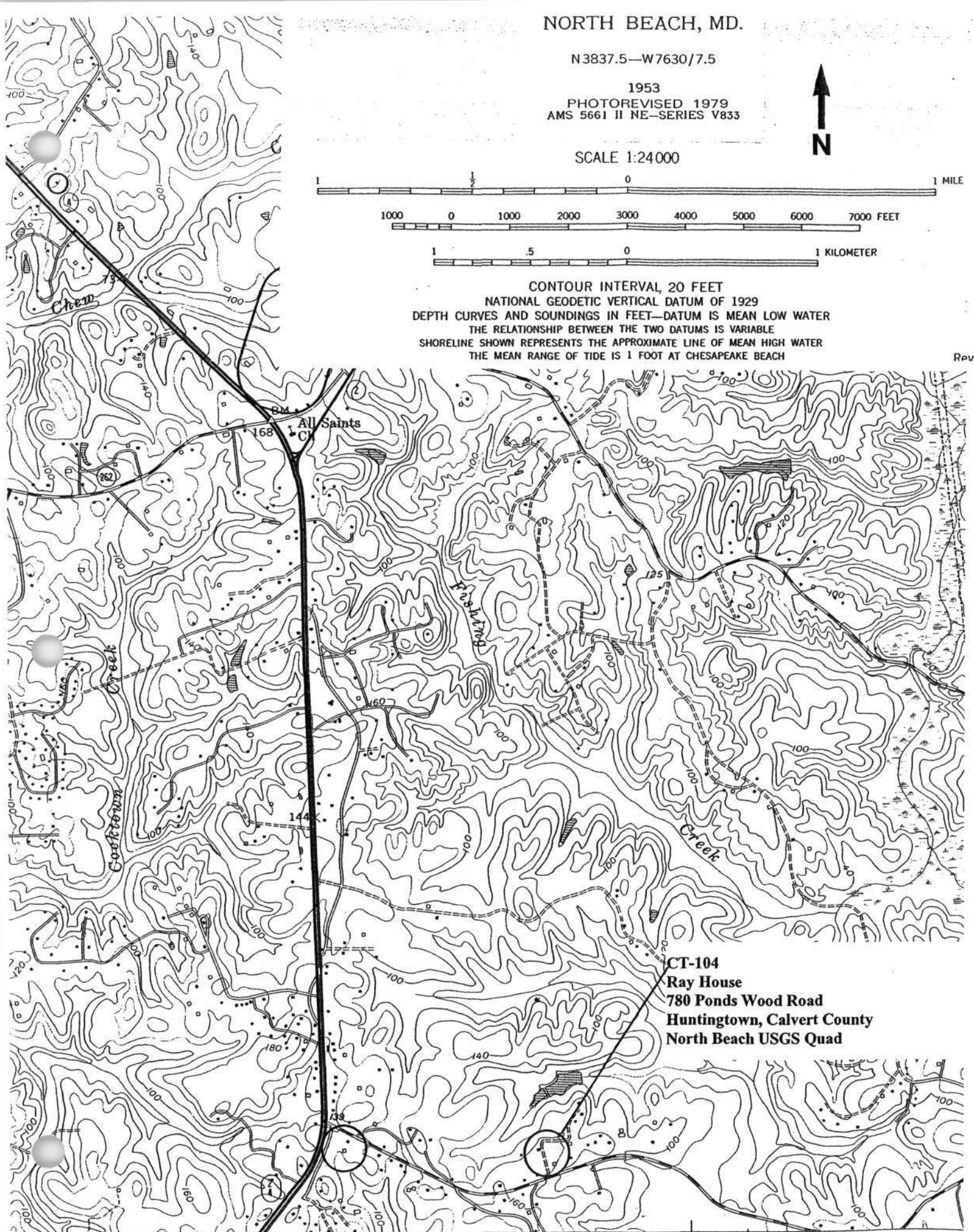
1953  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 5661 II NE—SERIES V833

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 1 FOOT AT CHESAPEAKE BEACH

Rev



CT-104  
Ray House  
780 Ponds Wood Road  
Huntingtown, Calvert County  
North Beach USGS Quad

30" 910000 FEET HUNTINGTON 0.6 MI. PRINCE FREDERICK 6.4 MI.

apped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey



CT-104

RAY HOUSE

780 PONDS WOOD ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

HOUSE AND SHED, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST

1 OF 6





CT-104

RAY HOUSE

780 PONDS WOOD ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

HOUSE, SOUTHEAST CORNER

2 OF 6



CT-104

RAY HOUSE

780 PONDS WOOD ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPD

HOUSE, NORTH EAST CORNER

3 OF 6



CT-104

RAY HOUSE

780 PONDS WOOD ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

HOUSE, NORTHWEST CORNER

4 OF 6



CT-104

RAY HOUSE  
780 PONDS WOOD ROAD  
CALVERT COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

HOUSE, SOUTHWEST CORNER  
5 OF 6





CT-104

RAY HOUSE

780 PONDS WOOD ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

TOBACCO BARN, NORTHWEST CORNER

6 OF 6